

SECRET

9 February 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SR/2

SUBJECT : Letter from Robert T. GOFORTH

1. Attached hereto is a letter received by the undersigned from Robert T. GOFORTH, dated 3 September 1954. The undersigned received the letter in the mail on 5 February 1955 and hence believes that the date is inserted in error. It probably should read 3 February 1955.

2. The following is a translation of the attached letter:

Dear []

Today I talked to several Estonian friends. They related to me that some mystic American group would provide Estonians funds for organizing radio broadcasts from Madrid. The individual who related this to me did not belong to those involved in these planned broadcasts. The chairman of the Estonian association in America, Professor Vassar, approached my source and informed him that this anonymous American group had entrusted him, the Rev. Kiviranna, and a Col. Reisman (must be Col. Reissaar) with the responsibility of organizing the transmissions. The broadcasts will be prepared in New York and will be transmitted to Madrid. From some "research" job in Washington an Estonian by the name of Kusepp will be released and sent to Madrid where he will be in charge of these broadcasts.

Since mystic matters may be of interest to you, I am informing you of these great preparatory activities for broadcasts.

What is new with you? Have not heard from you in quite a while. Hope you and your family are well, also your new daughter. Would be very happy to see you again soon.

Sincerely
(signed) Robert T. GOFORTH

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODSEXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

P. Berzins

Translation.

Goetsberg, February 19, 1955.

Dear Mr. Berzins !

Thank you most sincerely for your letter of January 31, 1955. With great interest I read and reread it several times, in order to be able to give you a detailed reply.

You write that in principle you have no objections to the cooperation between all political parties. From the bottom of my heart I welcome this consent of yours. Already two years ago I proposed to stop all disputes and to put aside all "three periods" - to establish cooperation of political parties resp. revive and expand the Latvian Central Council. At that time I worked very hard and I have to say that should I have received the consent from the Central Board of Latvian Farmers' Union - many things would be in a different light today. I do not make reproaches about the past. Could be that at that time political parties had not yet strengthened internally their work, but today - with activities renewed and in full speed - I again raise the question.

For your information, at one time I had received consent from Liberals, Socialists, New-Farmers and Catholics replied that they support such cooperation. Only Farmers' Union was against cooperation of Political parties. Mr. Klive's answer is known to you and it definitely was a negative one.

You inquire if there is anybody who would be able to perform the "masterwork" and accomplish cooperation between political parties? I know Mintauts Cakste, Bruno Kalnins and others, who today attack their political enemies "with full speed" forgetting that today there is no time and no place for disputes - we all have to devote ourselves to our nation our State!

For the simple reason that I know a number of these gentlemen and am aware of what they are after I am offering you to be the one who will perform the "masterwork". You might think that I am too small to perform such task, but I can try anyway.

I give you my word, that the "greatest enemies" - Bruno Kalnins and Alfreds Berzins I will seat at the "round table", should you so desire and agree with it.

These are not empty words since all that I am saying now has been weighed, discussed and from all sides talked over with the other party. Now it remains up to you. Should you consent that all "three periods" have to be put aside and should you consent that Latvian Constitution is in force and that Latvia is to be reestablished on a democratic basis - in such case all prerequisites for political cooperation are accepted.

In case political parties in exile will come to an agreement and establish a bureau of cooperation - it will be a huge force in the political struggle to liberate Latvia.

You know best that we have valuable individuals, who could be included in the work for Latvia, while mutual disputes keep them aside. You mentioned Kroders and his moral. Here all agree that Kroders is only Kroders and he ought not to be considered at all. But, I regret to say, that our mutual friend Jānis Malītis is so charmed by Kroders that is his chief sponsor. Is this with your knowledge and approval? Please do not consider this open saying of mine as complaining or slander. I am being frank, for it is important for you to know the bitter truth. One time, when the Latvian National

Council was established in Sweden it was aimed at uniting all political parties for successful activities. First all parties gave their consent, agreed to cooperate and abstain from mutual slander. But at the time when officers had to be appointed it became evident that our friend Janis Malitis wanted to become secretary general and when we were unable to give him this office but instead offered him the office of the secretary or another officer of the presidium - he opposed the entire case and joined Kroders to sabotage the cooperation of political parties. This case, too, we have to forget, since it is for the same of cooperation. I have no hate for Malitis but I am convinced that he is politically inexperienced and therefore the present "opposition" is not to be given serious consideration.

For your information, in his lectures Malitis openly instigates political hatred against Socialists, invites to boycott them and assures that in Latvia there will be no Socialist party. Such political activity causes tension and it is not democratic. Therefore there is no reason to wonder that the other side too starts biting and no cooperation can be established.

And further, what concerns your remarks about Breikss, I openly wrote him a letter and asked explanation and here is what he answered literally: "The case took place during the middle of January. On Brotning street I encountered P.Kalnins. We both stopped and had a talk. I said that Alfreds Berzins is picked and has a chance to become political councillor at the legation in Washington. P.K. was very happy about this information. I stated that in some circles it is said that A.B. is responsible for corruption during Ulmanis time. And therefore these things will again be warmed up, since it is said that there is documentary proof. Therefore the appointing of A.B. to the above post is not desirable. Upon this P.K. joy turned to excitement and he said that A.B. is the most honest person in the world. Apparently P.K. has reported this conversation to A.B. and this is now considered a terrible event, which curtails cooperation."

As you see, there has been a slight misunderstanding and you ought not to take seriously this thing. I know Breikss very well and closely cooperate with him and I believe that Breikss is for a close, very close cooperation.

For your information, in Sweden political parties have regained their place and our exiles with great interest follow their activities. At present political parties have to be especially careful in order not to let undesired elements infiltrate these. Malitis is very active in recruiting new members, but forgets to screen them and in result in Gooteberg Farmers' Union has admitted persons who during bolshevist time have been active workers, even a militia member, who deported Chairman of the Riga District Court, Aleksandrs Kocins - is a member of the Farmers Union today. And further, agronomist Dziedins, who was the private secretary of Arvids Bergs in Latvia, at present is "the right hand" of Kroders and against political parties - has been admitted to the Farmers Union. Please forgive, that I am telling you all these things, but I hope that you, as leader of the Farmers Union, are taking interest in these matters. Dziedins, engineer Ozols, Paul - until last spring were the most ardent supporters of Valdmans, but now have turned their coats and not only sympathize the Farmers Union but several "supporters of Valdmans" have already been admitted to the FU. I think that this is done with a "good purpose" to seek cover in the FU from criticism of the society.

Andersons is the downrightest among the downright. The fact that Andersons is chairman of the Latvian National Council in Sweden is greatly appreciated. Andersons and Straubergs have at all times defended the policy

of farmers and invited to cooperate and such would have been achieved in Sweden would there not have been individuals who for their own calculations have ruined this cooperation. "Misu Domas" has 4 editors i.e. one from each party and for a while things went along smoothly, no accusations and attacks on executives of other parties, but from the moment when Kroders started his "crusade" against the Latvian National Council, assisted by Malitis and Dziedins - the grating started and Andersons could not help it. I have followed the course of events and I know that Andersons has at all times acted as a true farmer for what members of his own party have instigated against him. One day Malitis phoned me in Stockholm and literally said: "I will politically destroy you and Andersons" Why? Only because Malitis did not get the office of the Secretary General of the Latvian National Council. The fact that Andersons became chairman of the Latvian National Council was a great victory for the farmers, but they themselves did not realize this victory and caused dissent in their own ranks. Should the farmers have actively sponsored the LNC today there would be "peace in the house". I think that farmers group in Sweden does not reflect the activities outlined by the Central board. Andersons, like yourself, is for cooperation with all parties and he has great merits, but there are individuals who for ambitious reasons aim at spoiling this good cooperation and these are persons with poor orientation in political work.

What concerns Cakste, according to Breikss, who asks me to inform you, he has not to be taken into consideration. Cakste paper by no means expresses the views of Liberals and is not their organ. You have to know that I have joined the Latvian Liberal Union and have done so only for the purpose of serving the cooperation of political parties - for the benefit of our people and our State. I am not seeking any offices and never will. I am only concerned with our joint fate. Therefore I have joined the Liberal Union to obtain a chance to work in the field of cooperation. I sincerely beg you do not consider that Liberals are against cooperation - on the contrary - from liberal side the cries for cooperation are coming. I am enclosing a brief address that I prepared for Independence Day and in writing submitted to the organizational committee and after obtaining the latter's approval I read it to the audience but Dziedins and Ozils did not like it and with the assistance of Kroders brutally attacked me as is seen in Canadian "Latvija". These are the sponsors of cooperation. Some individuals interfere in the life of exiles and therefore political parties would have to cooperate to tame these individuals. The Latvian Liberal Union is a true democratic unit and does in no way consider democracy its own "patent". It is wrong to think that Liberals are marching bridge of the Socialists - on the contrary, liberals are those who often, quite often remind Socialists to apply the logics of democracy in practical life. Liberals are for cooperation which we need so badly, if we desire to serve our nation and State. Let us forget all disputes and cooperate politically and you will see that our nation will only benefit from this. If we continue to dispute we grow weary and our sacred cause will only suffer. Let us be Latvians, let us serve jointly Latvia. There is no greater task than to devote ones activities to Latvia and today there is a chance to do so and therefore let us invite everyone to join us and in great unanimity let us start active political work for Latvia.

I was very sorry not to have known earlier that you planned a visit to London. I would have invited you to Sweden in order to agree on cooperation. Cooperation is possible if we so desire ourselves.

As I already mentioned earlier in my letter, I definitely know (I have it in writing) that the Socialists are for cooperation and for the shelving of all periods. We have to consider Bruno Kalnins the same as Bruno Kalnins has to consider you - should you both be able to forget the past and reach hands in cooperation - the case is saved and cooperation is possible. These are not empty words but it is my deepest conviction. Br.Kalnins is as closely grown with his party as you with the Farmers Union. Your parties need you both and this is important. Only a politically naive person can believe that the Socialists can get along without Br.K. and the Farmers without you. The last passage in your letter where you write that you are willing to draw a line across everything give me hope and faith in the future.

Dear Mr.Berzins please come with your definite proposals for a true cooperation and I promise that I will make all arrangements in the nearest future. Have faith in me and I will not deceive you. I do not have any demands for myself. I will only serve our sacred cause, cooperation. We have no time for fruitless disputes - we all are invited to work for Latvia. The question remains, will you be willing to personally come to Sweden, to agree on cooperation - to sign the historic protocol. You are the most important person among the farmers and therefore it is important for you to come personally and give your signature to cooperation. Should you come the case would be settled for ever. It would not be advisable to have somebody else, for example Klive, come - it could be misinterpreted and the "fire" would start again. Whatever we do has to be done from the very roots. Should farmers be for political cooperation - all other parties will do the same.

I have been authorized by Breiks to write that he will take care of your visa.

Dear Mr.Berzins, on the basis of our longtime acquaintanceship, I am very frank and therefore I will be very glad if you will be as frank too. I promise that our correspondence will in no way be used to harm you, but I will always be for peace and cooperation with you and the Farmers Union.

With friendly greetings,

I remain

(yours Ikse)